

RECOGNIZING HELEN HUTT AND HER 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Hutt, joining us in our gallery, a distinguished citizen from Ohio. When Helen first began her service to the American Red Cross, Calvin Coolidge was President of the United States, a first-class stamp cost 2 cents, and the first Academy Awards were presented. That was 1928. Since that time, Helen has touched countless lives through her 75 years of service to the American Red Cross.

Helen began her involvement with the Red Cross in 1928 when she became certified to teach swimming lessons. During World War II, she worked in the South Pacific as a "Doughnut Dolly," serving GIs coffee and doughnuts. In the 1950s and 1960s, she organized a "Learn to Swim" program for Port Clinton children and the blind. Helen worked as a local Disaster Relief Volunteer during the 1970s, and then volunteered at Magruder Hospital recruiting blood donors and sharing expertise with the Ottawa County Advisory Board. She is still an active volunteer for the Ottawa County district office of the Red Cross.

Throughout her years of volunteerism, Helen has received numerous honors, including the Volunteer of the Year Award for the Ottawa County District, and the highest local award for the Red Cross that it ever bestows, the Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Award.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this incredible American now is over 90 years of age and she will be receiving her 75-year volunteer pin at the National Red Cross Headquarters here in Washington, D.C., I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this magnificent American.

Congratulations. We are so very, very proud of you, Helen Hutt.

SIMPLE SAVINGS TAX RELIEF ACT

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon mark up tax legislation, including the elimination of dividend double taxation. I propose we also provide tax relief for interest earned from savings in bank accounts. I have introduced the Simple Savings Tax Relief Act, H.R. 1163, which would help all savers, including those in lower-income levels who do not earn corporate dividends.

Like dividend recipients, bank and credit union customers report interest as income to the IRS, increasing their tax burden. Let us not punish those who invest for a rainy day. Let us encourage them.

In 1998, the Joint Economic Committee wrote that exemption of interest from taxation is a significant economic step we should take, and "such a proposal would primarily benefit the low- and middle-income taxpayers."

H.R. 1163 would permit a single filer to earn up to \$200, \$400 for a joint filer, in bank account interest tax-free.

It is very simple: let us help those who are primarily low- and middle-income taxpayers today.

HONORING AMERICA'S SERVICEWOMEN

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to pay tribute to the dedication and courage of the millions of women who have served in the United States Armed Services.

Since the earliest days of our Nation, women have played an integral part in our military operations, either behind the front lines or in actual combat. As far back as the Revolutionary War, there are stories of women who posed as men so that they could go and fight at the frontline. Others offered their services as nurses. Still others worked to support the war movement by leaving their domestic roles to take on jobs that were necessary to maintain the Nation's economy.

More recently, the role of women in the armed services has greatly expanded. In 1978, women began to be assigned to duty aboard ships; in 1991, women were assigned to aircraft in both the Air Force and the Navy; and by 1994, the ban on women on combat ships was lifted, allowing women greater opportunities in our armed services.

As the war in the Persian Gulf looms ahead, we send our thanks and support to all our members of the armed services. But let us not forget the women and their contributions in this time of need.

ROLE OF THE RURAL EDUCATION CAUCUS

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, schools in rural districts face a barrage of problems unheard of in more populous areas. Country schools have continually had to confront the one-size-fits-all mentality of Washington, DC, when it comes to Federal education policy. For rural States like Montana, the sun always seems to set on the Potomac, where policymakers seem to ignore the rest of the map stretching 3,000 miles beyond that river.

In my home State, our schools fight year after year to come up with enough funding to cover the federally man-

dated Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. In just 5 years, the estimated Federal shortfall in IDEA funding has cost my State nearly \$93 million, money that larger and wealthier school districts in more populous States can easily afford; but in Montana it is real money that comes out of funds for new teachers, computers, books and Internet access.

Our families in western and rural States deserve the same access to quality education for their children that urban families have. That is why I, along with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), have formed the bipartisan Rural Education Caucus. Together we have come together to devise solutions to the unique problems associated with the business of educating children in rural areas.

INVEST IN CHILDREN, THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have declared this week Children's Week. Their actions, however, speak louder than their words.

Last week they pushed for a budget that fails children and fails families. The Republican budget that barely passed fell \$6.15 billion short for funding title I, the largest source of Federal education aid to disadvantaged youth and the centerpiece of the Bush education reform program. It cut \$81 million from programs to improve State and local teacher quality, which was a stated goal of the President's education reform plan.

We must remember, Mr. Speaker, that the biggest challenge facing American families is how to bridge their responsibilities between work and caring for their children, and the budget that passed last week did nothing to help working parents.

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues want to support children, they will not shy away from promises for our children in favor of big-money special interests. They will invest in children. Children are 25 percent of our population. They are 100 percent of our future.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL DAVID FRIBLEY

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart I stand before you today. Near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, Marine Lance Corporal David K. Fribley, from Atwood, Indiana, and seven of his fellow Marines were killed in the opening march of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Reports of the incident indicate that a